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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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I would like to applaud the Justice Dept. for reaching a settlement with Microsoft that is fair, and will actual benefit consumers.

Many of the supposed remedies put forth by MS competitors have no benefit to consumers. In most cases, the consumer would be harmed. And that's what anti-trust is really all about....consumer benefit. Not welfare for competitors as MS competitors seem to believe.

The concept that tying additional products to the operating system is harmful to the consumer is pretty weak to begin with. Maybe people don't remember the wonderful days when fonts were not part of the OS. I do, and it was a royal pain. Fonts were purchased separately (from a variety of sources, I might add) and were not always compatible with certain programs or printers. There was a lot of competition, but no benefit to the consumer.

E-mail is another example....with competing programs and lots of incompatibilities. It was nearly impossible to e-mail attachments to someone with a competitive program in the early 1990s.

If the Internet and computing are ever going to be fully functional for people like my mother (75 years old) software must be bundled. Don't even think about having her install add ons, plug-ins and the like.....all in the name of competition. Why should she be forced to deal with arcane technical matters just to satisfy Real Networks, Sun Microsystems and their ilk?

If people want an alternative to Microsoft's operating system, they can buy a Mac, or install Linux.

I've lived through PC program choice at the very basic level in the workplace from 1982 onward. Anyone who says those were the good old days obviously wasn't there. An operating system with continual added functionality is WONDERFUL, as long as consumers have the ability to add on any additional software they choose.

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